

VOTE ON THE SENATE
TRANSPORTATION BILL

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to move the previous question to allow for debate and a vote on the Senate transportation bill.

With millions of Americans still unemployed through no fault of their own, what is the House considering today? In the Budget Committee, we are discussing a budget that slashes targeted investments in transportation, scientific research, and education to give additional tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. The proposed budget also dismantles the Medicare guarantee, transferring rising costs of care to seniors. And on the House floor, we have another attempt to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act, this time targeting a provision in the law that would address real, systemic health care costs. This is not an agenda that creates jobs or grows our economy.

Instead, we should bring forward the Senate transportation bill that received an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74–22 last week. This bill would invest in critical infrastructure projects, supporting over 1.8 million jobs nationwide and over 28,000 in my home state of Maryland. It would help revive the construction industry, which continues to face 17.1 percent unemployment. And it would make our Nation's transportation system safer and more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, we must focus our agenda on improving the economy and putting Americans back to work. We have a bipartisan solution to do just that—let's bring it to the Floor.

SENSELESS ACTS OF VIOLENCE

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we laid to rest a young man, Deniel Brow who was killed after he turned away from an argument—shot as he began to walk away.

Every time our children are out, not only in the Virgin Islands but across the country, and certainly as we now see in Florida, we worry that they will be injured or killed in some senseless act of violence.

In the case of young Traynor Martin, he was not killed because of an argument with a peer which would have been bad enough, it appears he was pursued by an adult, allegedly, a self appointed overly aggressive neighborhood watch person who seemed to be just looking for trouble, and who even after being told by dispatchers to leave the boy alone pursued him and in the midst of his pleas for help heard on the 911 tape, shoots and kills him.

I am glad the Justice Department has begun its investigation and I thank our colleague CORRINE BROWN for getting involved and being the strong advocate she is on behalf of the grieving Martin family and his community.

But you know the blame for this incident goes beyond the shooter. All who have engaged in violent rhetoric against racial and

ethnic minorities, who have been contributing to the poisonous environment in which we now find ourselves in this country and who have been encouraging this kind of vigilante activity are also responsible for young Traynor's death and his family's loss.

I hope this incident will be a wake-up call and have us come to our senses and sense of fairness, justice and community—the kind of community that looks out for and takes care of its children, not kills them or fosters an atmosphere where this kind of action is encouraged.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JACINTO COLLEGE AND GULF COAST PASS GRANT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of San Jacinto College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution and community college located in our district which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The mission of San Jacinto College is to deliver accessible, affordable, high-quality post-secondary education programs designed to meet the needs of the residents of Harris County.

The primary focus of the College is helping students to achieve their personal and professional goals, create seamless transitions among educational levels, and to prepare students to enter the job market or transfer to senior institutions. Through its programs and services, and partnerships with industry, the College supports the economic growth of the community and the region.

San Jacinto College recently received a grant that will fund collaborative programs with local secondary school districts focused on increasing college readiness and completion of community college developmental education courses. The grant, provided through the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin, was made possible by The Houston Endowment.

The \$1.2 million, three year grant, known as the Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Students Success, or Gulf Coast PASS, will help San Jacinto College and its partners, Pasadena and Sheldon Independent School Districts, ISDs, expand existing projects and implement new partnerships. Special focus will aim to increase college readiness and completion of community college developmental education courses where necessary.

With the help of these funds, San Jacinto College is partnering with local ISDs to start up two early college high schools, one with Pasadena ISD and another with Sheldon ISD. The Sheldon ISD Early College High School will open in Fall 2012.

The Texas Education Administration states that early college high schools must provide access to under-represented populations, lower socio-economic students, and first-in-college students to provide a pathway for higher education attainment for these students who would be less likely to pursue higher education.

Our nation must do more to close the gaps between secondary and post-secondary edu-

cation in the areas of academic experiences, expectations, and curriculum. San Jacinto College is committed to bridging these gaps by facilitating communication and collaboration between high school and college faculty to identify these gaps locally.

In order for our students to make the successful transition from high school to some kind of post-secondary experience, the College and our school districts must intentionally design programs that address those gaps. We must commit to creating multiple pathways to student success and completion of post-secondary credentials.

I am proud to rise to commend the work of San Jacinto College, which provides a model of excellence in higher education for the people of Harris County and the nation.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, the people have sent us up here to legislate and pass laws that will benefit and protect the American public and move our country forward. It is more than disheartening, it is shameful that once again we find ourselves here today wasting time to vote on a piece of partisan, Republican legislation that has no hope of moving beyond this chamber. H.R. 5 does nothing to benefit the American people, nor does this Act do anything to protect access to healthcare as its name declares.

Even worse, this misguided legislation is being considered during the same week we are celebrating the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I am unbelievably proud of that fact that the bill I authored has guaranteed that 105 million Americans no longer face lifetime limits on their insurance, 2 million young adults are now insured under their parents' plans, and seniors no longer find themselves lost in the "coverage gap" and lacking access to prescription drugs. With all of these tangible, quantifiable benefits, why are my colleagues on the other side of the aisle spending their time attempting to dismantle a law that is already being implemented? Why do they spend their time trying to chip away at it piece by piece when they could be working on legislation that would benefit their constituents? Working to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) and not even bothering to come up with any sort of replacement seems dubious and makes no sense to me. But then again, I am just a poor, Polish lawyer from Detroit.

Not only are my Republican friends attempting to repeal IPAB, they have added it to their medical malpractice legislation, H.R. 5, which contains provisions that they have brought time and again to this floor, failing every time. Each time they resurrect the same language.